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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

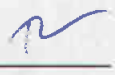
MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

August 14, 2012

Reviewed: 

Mine Name: Walker Flat	Permit Number: S/015/0081
Operator Name: Miracle Rock Mining and Research	Inspection Date: July 26, 2012
Inspector(s): Paul Baker and Lynn Kunzler	Time: About 12:00-12:30 PM
Other Participants: None	Mine Status: Reclaimed

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

This site was reclaimed several years ago, and although the Division has not received a bond release request, we wanted to look at the status of the vegetation.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

The Division never held a reclamation surety for this site. It was permitted prior to this requirement, and grading was done at a time when the Division was not asking for a revegetation bond. The permit fee was last paid in 2005 but has not been due.

3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control

There are places where there is a steep drop from the mined area to the adjacent drainage, and some of these places have had fairly substantial erosion. Adjacent undisturbed areas have a similar problem though possibly not quite as bad.

There has been little runoff, and there are no erosion problems on the majority of the reclaimed area.

9. Revegetation

This is a very harsh site with very clayey and salty soil. Adjacent areas support a mat saltbush community with some galleta, blue grama, Castle Valley clover, and shadscale. The disturbed areas are pocked, and many of the pocks contain mat saltbush, shadscale, Castle Valley clover, fourwing saltbush, and Russian wild rye. Probably all of the mat saltbush is from volunteer plants; I don't think it was in the seed mix. There was evidence of weeds having previously been present, but there are few live weeds.

We did not measure vegetation cover, but it is not 70 percent of the cover in adjacent undisturbed areas.

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Photos were taken to document site conditions.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The operator has not applied for release, but I recommend that it be released and the file closed. Although the vegetation cover is not 70 percent or the surrounding areas, there is clear evidence that it is encroaching and increasing. Any attempt to scarify and re-seed would result in a lot of weed growth and killing established plants in an area where vegetation establishment is very difficult.

There is some increased erosion coming from the disturbed areas, but this is showing signs of stabilizing. The entire area around the mine is erosive.

Inspector's Signature

PBB:pb

cc: Dave Taylor, Miracle Rock

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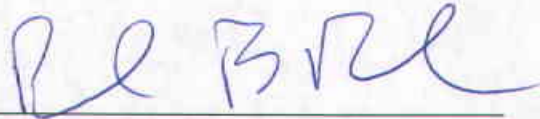




Photo 1. An overview of the area near the entrance



Photo 3. The flat area beyond the disturbed area shows the type of vegetation in undisturbed areas.



Photo 2. This area has almost no vegetation.



Photo 4. There has been some erosion coming off the reclaimed area into an adjacent channel, but the entire area is erosive.